

**PSaf/E&R – J-1- 2008:  
Resolution on Virginia Duck Hunting  
Regulations, Potomac River Shoreline Adjacent to Dyke  
Marsh (passed May 23, 2008)**

**WHEREAS**, Dyke Marsh is one of the last large freshwater tidal marshes along the Potomac River shoreline in the Washington, D.C., area; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Congress in 1959 designated Dyke Marsh, by law, as part of the U.S. National Park System “so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount;” and,

**WHEREAS**, Dyke Marsh is one of the most significant temperate, climax, riverine, narrow-leafed, cattail marshes in the U. S. National Park System nationwide; and,

**WHEREAS**, there has been a decline in some bird species, including the Marsh wren, the Least bittern, King rail, and Virginia rail; at least one Dyke Marsh plant is on the federal endangered and threatened species candidate list, one plant is extinct in Dyke Marsh (*Plantago cordata*), and at least one fish, the Short-nosed sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) is on the federal endangered list; and,

**WHEREAS**, there were 400,000 visitors to the Belle Haven/ Dyke Marsh area in 2007 and 1.2 million users of the Mount Vernon Trail annually; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries promulgated a regulation (4VAC15-260-160) stipulating that no stationary waterfowl hunting blinds adjacent to U. S. National Park Service lands in Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh be erected, that blinds adjacent to these lands shall be by licensed floating blinds only, and that blinds could be used for hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and Thanksgiving Day, during the hunting season, between 4 a.m. and one-half hour after sunset; and,

**WHEREAS**, there has been no substantial change in the reasons for the adoption of the regulation and, indeed, since 1994 there are more visitors, more users of the Mount Vernon trail and more nearby residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries may consider repealing these regulations in the summer of 2008.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) requests the Board of Directors of Game and Inland Fisheries to retain this regulation which protects the safety of the other wildlife, boaters, walkers, researchers, students, and visitors to Dyke Marsh; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MVCCA requests that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors support retention of this regulation; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the MVCCA requests that the senators and delegates representing the Mount Vernon District in the General Assembly support this resolution by requesting the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to retain this regulation.